

Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

2021-09-12

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#)



To our visitors...

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

May God's blessing be upon you!

Hymns in Today's Liturgy

Resurrectional *Apolytikion* (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

Apolytikion of St. Thomas (Tone 3)

O Holy Apostle Thomas, intercede to the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of sins.

Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

Epistle

Galatians 6:11–18

Brethren, see how large a letter I have written to you with my own hand. As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised do themselves keep the Law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ

Jesus, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me; for I bear in my body the brand-marks of the Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel

John 3:13–17

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

Synaxarion

On 12 September, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the celebration of the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate the precious staves and contest of the holy Hieromartyr Autonomos, bishop from Italy, who was slain in Bithynia.

As a sacrifice set upon Thine altar, O Savior,
is Autonomos Thy sacrificer, slain by stoning.

On the twelfth Autonomos was beaten to death with staves and stones.

In Soreoi, Autonomos brought many to the Christian faith and built them a church dedicated to the Archangel Michael. Not far away was a place called Limnæ, entirely inhabited by pagans. Autonomos went to this place and quickly brought many of them to the light by the Gospel of Christ. This roused the other pagans, and they hurried to Archangel Michael Church and, during divine service, slew Autonomos on the altar, killing also many other Christians in the church. Two hundred years after his death, Autonomos appeared to a soldier called John. This soldier dug up the saint’s relics and found them to be completely uncorrupt, and many of the sick received healing from them.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Coronatos of Iconium; and Venerable Daniel of Thasios. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Holy Cross	08:30	St. Thomas
	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	Holy Trinity
Wednesday	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
Friday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. Sophia	08:30	Holy Trinity
Saturday	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas

We will stream services live and post updates on [our Facebook page](#), on [our Periscope channel](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).



JOIN THE MOVEMENT



Pray for Orthodox missionaries, mission team members, and priests daily.



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